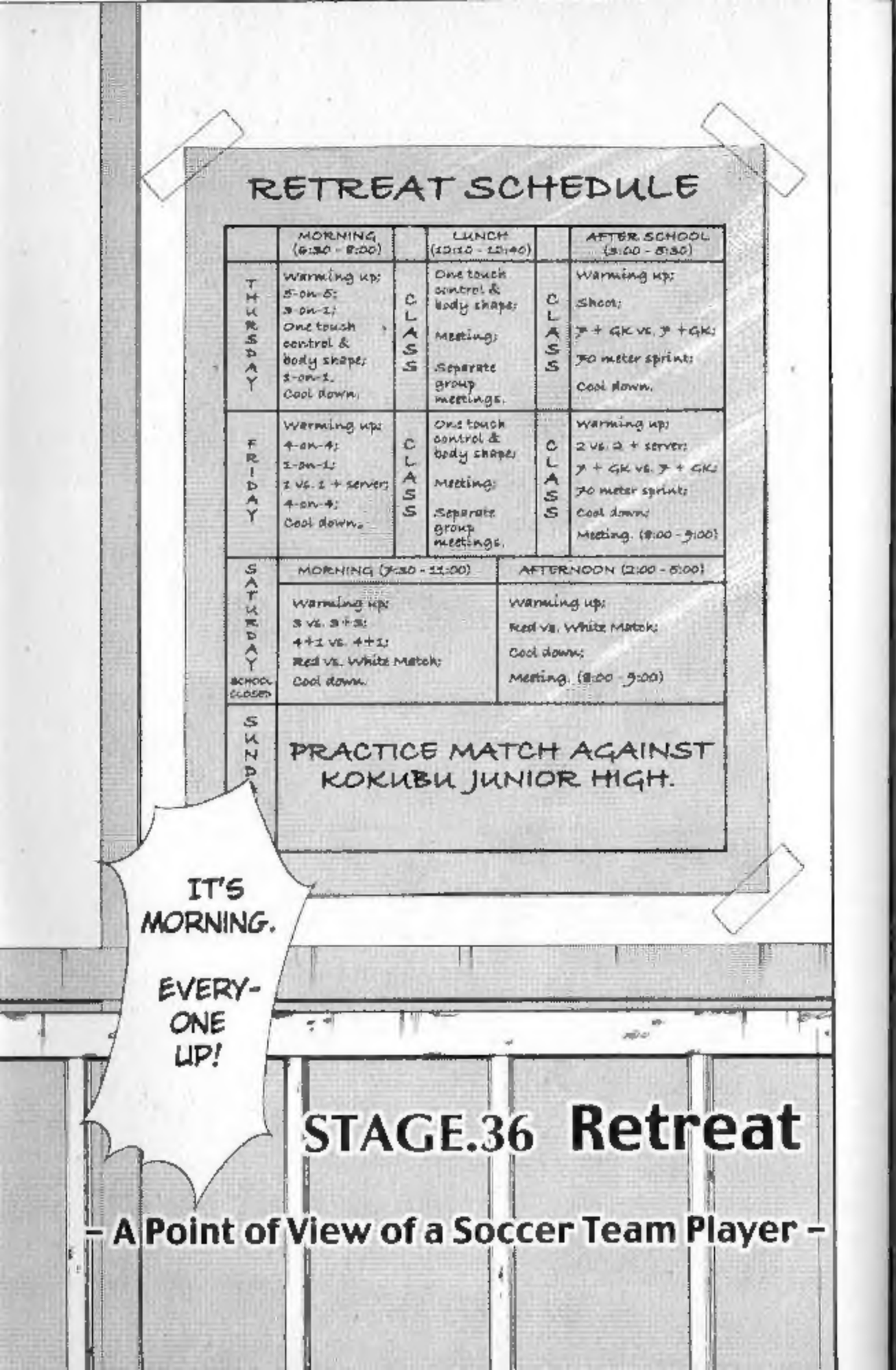
WHISTLE!

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

Story & Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

volume 5



STAGE.36 Retreat

– A Point of View of a Soccer Team Player –

WHISTLE!™

Vol. 5
PURE SOUL

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HE'S THE SEVENTH GRADER. HE JUST JOINED US.

IS THAT KID CRAZY?

SO, YOU GONNA ACCEPT MY CHALLENGE?

OH, RIGHT. WELL, WHO CARES?

...

WELL, YOU INTRODUCED YOURSELF TO EVERYONE WHEN YOU JOINED THE TEAM.

I NEVER TOLD YOU MY NAME.

HUHHH

UM, YOU'RE SANTA YAMAGUCHI ... RIGHT?

C'MON. IT'S TIME TO EAT.

LET'S GIVE IT OUR BEST!

WHY NOT?

AHH HHH

SHI-GEKI ...

BREAKFAST!

UHH... SURE.

HEH HEH

HEH HEH

SHŌ KAZA-MATSURI !!

MAN, IT'S TOTALLY SUNNY.

YEAH. ANOTHER HOT DAY.

IT WAS THE SECOND MORNING OF THE RETREAT.

5:30 AM? I'M STILL SLEEPY.

URRGH...

I WANTED TO DO THIS YESTERDAY. BUT WHEN I COULDN'T FIND YOU I WENT TO SLEEP.

I SHOULD BE THE FORWARD!

I WANT TO GET YOUR POSITION.

I CHALLENGE YOU!

IT'S TRUE. I WAS A MEMBER OF THE TEAM, AND I THINK I WAS PRETTY GOOD.

I PLAYED SOCCER ON MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEAM. I ABSOLUTELY LOVE PLAYING THE GAME.

IT'S NOT SANTA LIKE IN SANTA CLAUS. IT'S THE KANJI CHARACTERS "CEDAR" AND "THICK."

SEVENTH GRADE, CLASSROOM A. SANTA YAMAGUCHI!

BUT NOW I'M TRAINING HARD FOR THAT GIRL...

UNNHHHHHH

SANTA, YOU'RE RUNNING TOO FAST!

BUT I DIDN'T JOIN MY JUNIOR HIGH TEAM. THEIR TRAINING WAS TOO HARD AND I COULDN'T TELL THEM I HATE TRAINING.

I REALLY LIKE SHŌ. HE'S SMALL BUT REALLY COOL.

NO WAY.

KRAK

C'MON, I KNOW YOU'RE IN LOVE.

SHH. QUIET. DON'T BE SO LOUD.

HMM. MAYBE IT'S THE ONE FROM OUR CLASS?

SEVENTH GRADER? OR THE EIGHTH?

THMP♥ THMP♥ THMP♥

...BUT YESTERDAY...

I SAW THE SOCCER TEAM HAD THESE HUGE BAGS. THEY'RE STARTING A RETREAT TODAY.

HUH?

MIYUKI, WHY DON'T YOU BRING FOOD FOR THEM? THAT'LL BE YOUR CHANCE.

WHEN I BEAT HIM, SHE'LL SEE WHAT HE'S REALLY LIKE.

PRETENDING TO BE NICE. HAH! HE'S NOT FOOLING ME.

MIYUKI SAKURAI. MY CLASSMATE.

THAT GIRL...

I...

...LIKE GUYS WHO REALLY WORK TO BE THE BEST.

HEY, YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT MUSASHINOMORI MATCH?

THAT TEAM IS GREAT, BUT THEY ONLY PLAYED WITH 11 PLAYERS ...

THOSE PLAYERS ARE SO COOL.

CHATTER

CHATTER

WHIP

WHO DID THAT?

THUD

SHE HIT HIM WITH THE SERVING SPOON?!

EVERY-ONE...

GEEZ. MS. KATORI SAYS COUNT ON HER, BUT SHE'S NOT EVEN UP YET.

CHOMP CHOMP

WELL, AFTER FEEDING BREAKFAST TO 30 BOYS, I'M PRETTY TIRED, TOO.

YOU MUST BE BUSHED.

PAT PAT

GRIIINN

EAT THEM ALL, ALL RIGHT? ♡

ZZZZZZZZZZZ

NIGHT DUTY ROOM.

BRRRRRRRRR

BECAUSE IT'S RIGHT BEFORE THE MORNING TRAINING SESSIONS, BREAKFAST CONSISTS MAINLY ON GLUCOSE FOODS.

- RICE BALL
- UDON
- SPAGHETTI
- DESERT (BANANA)

I'M 100X100 TIMES COOLER THAN HE IS.

I MEAN, HE'S NOT UGLY, BUT...

HE'S SHORTER THAN ME.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HIM?

BABUMP

AHH.

BOK

WANT THIS RICE BALL?

WH...

GRRRRRR

YEAH, AND SANTA'S SO GREEDY.

HE'S REALLY FRIENDLY.

SHŌ'S SO NICE.

YOU CAN HAVE MINE.

FOR SOME-ONE LIKE THE CAPTAIN TO LIKE HIM, SHŌ'S GOTTA BE PRETTY CLEVER.

I HEARD HE WAS FROM MUSASHI-NOMORI. I'M BETTING HE TOTALLY DECEIVED THE CAPTAIN.

THE CAPTAIN'S FAVORITE IS...

SHŌ KAZAMATSURI OF CLASS 2-A. (PERSONALLY, I DON'T ACCEPT HIM AS AN FW!)

I MEAN, SHE'S GOT GREAT TECHNIQUE, BUT DOES SHE REALLY WANT TO PLAY IN A GAME? I'M NOT EVEN SURE SHE CAN.

SHE'S YUKI KOJIMA OF CLASS 2-B... A CLASSMATE OF THE CAPTAIN. SHE WAS THEIR MANAGER, BUT NOW SHE'S TRAINING WITH US. VERY MYSTERIOUS.

I HEARD SHŌ WAS BEHIND HER TRANSFOR-MATION. I KNEW SHE WAS PART OF HIS GROUP WHEN SHE ATTACKED ME.

WHOOSH

BUT AT BREAK-FAST, SHE SHOWED SHE WAS REALLY VIOLENT.

I USED TO THINK SHE WAS SPECIAL, BUT NOW I THINK SHE WAS JUST PRETENDING TO BE NICE.

I CHECKED UP ON HER IN THE NIGHT DUTY ROOM.

I JUST JOINED THE TEAM, SO I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW EVERYONE RELATES TO EACH OTHER.

TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY, LEARN WHAT SURROUNDS THE ENEMY. THIS IS WHAT MY GRANDPA USED TO SAY.

... DIVIDE INTO THREE GROUPS OF FW-MF-DF AND PRACTICE.

AFTER YOUR RUN ...

HMM. HE WON'T BE EASY. LOTS OF PEOPLE STAND BY HIM.

MOST TEAMS CONSIST OF NINTH GRADERS. IT'S RARE WHEN JUNIOR HIGH TEAMS DON'T.

THE TEAM HAS 28 MEMBERS, INCLUDING NINE EIGHTH GRADERS AND 19 SEVENTH GRADERS. (MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO JOINED WITH ME HAVE NO EXPERIENCE.)

I HEARD HE DROVE OUT THE NINTH GRADERS AND BECAME THE CAPTAIN.

FOR US SEVENTH GRADERS, HE'S SCARY. I'M NOT SURE HOW TO DEAL WITH HIM.

HE IS THE CAPTAIN.

TATSUYA MIZUNO OF CLASS 2-B. HIS POSITION IS MF.

EVEN I CAN'T BEAT HIM. HE'S SMART AND HE LOOKS GOOD. AND HE'S A REALLY GOOD PLAYER. THAT'S GOTTA VIOLATE SOME RULE, DON'T YOU THINK? AND, THE GIRLS ARE CRAZY FOR HIM.

THUD

HEY, STAY FOCUSED, SANTA.

FLOOOP

WHY?

SOCCER TEAM'S WORKING HARD.

MORNING PRACTICE, HUH?

ALL RIGHT. WE'RE DONE.

WE'LL GET TOGETHER AGAIN AT LUNCH.

THIS MAY NOT BE TRUE, BUT THEY SAY SHŌ BEAT HIM, AND EVER SINCE THEY'VE BEEN CLOSE. NOTE TO SELF: BE CAREFUL.

HE'S JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH'S WALKING LETHAL-WEAPON. NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HE'S THINKING.

HE'S DAICHI FUWA (GK) OF CLASS 2-C.

AH, IT HURTS.

LET ME CON-TINUE.

MATH 1

NORO OF CLASS 1-D.

HE'S ALSO PART OF SHŌ'S GROUP, BUT NO ONE TO WORRY ABOUT.

YOSHIHIKO'S A BIG BRAIN. HIDEOMI'S A BIG BODY. KAORU'S HARMLESS, AND THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH HIM.

KOGA

GOMI

HANAZAWA

CLASS 1-B'S YOSHIHIKO KOGA (DF), HIDEOMI HANAZAWA (DF), KAORU GOMI (MF)

TOYAMA

TANAKA

AND THE REST, CLASS 2-B'S IPPEI TOYAMA (MF), MAMORU TANAKA (DF). THEY'RE NOBODIES.

HE'S NOT EVEN A GOOD PLAYER, BUT HE ACTS LIKE ONE IN FRONT OF THE SEVENTH GRADERS. HE'S DESPICABLE.

HE'S MASATO TAKAI OF CLASS 2-D. I DON'T KNOW HIS CURRENT POSITION.

BUT SHŌ BROUGHT HIM BACK. HOW DARE HE?

TSK

I WAS HAPPY WHEN HE STOPPED COMING AFTER HE LOST THE REGULAR'S POSITION.

HE'S YŪSUKE MORINAGA OF CLASS 2-D, MASATO'S CLASSMATE AND MF. HE'S PRETTY GOOD AND KIND...

...BUT, HE LIKES SHŌ AND IS PART OF HIS GROUP.

TTEEWT

SINCE MASATO RETURNED, HE'S BEEN TRAINING HARDER THAN EVER...DOES HE MEAN TO TAKE THE SIDE-BACK OR WHAT?

KTOOH

SEE HOW CLEVER I AM?

IT'S BETTER TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH POWERFUL PLAYERS AND BEAT UP THE WEAK PLAYERS LIKE SHŌ.

ONLY A FOOL WOULD COMPETE WITH SHIGEKI FOR THE FW'S POSITION.

YAHHH!

A RUBBER BAND.

SNAPP

SNAPP

HM?

OH.

NUTS! NO MATTER WHO IT IS, THEY ALL STAND BY SHŌ.

NOTHING. I JUST GOT RID OF A NOSEY RAT. THAT'S ALL.

WHAT'S WRONG, SHIGEKI?

I'M SO SLEEPY AFTER GETTING UP SO EARLY.

YAAWWNNN

HE'S A REAL DELINQUENT. EVEN THE TEACHERS DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.

THE PROBLEM IS SHIGEKI SATŌ OF CLASS 2-A. (HE SWITCHED POSITION FROM GK TO FW.)

RECESS AFTER THE THIRD PERIOD.

ACTUALLY, THE ONLY ONES WHO ARE REALLY INCREDIBLE ARE SHIGEKI AND TATSUYA.

2-A

BUT HE'S STILL GOT INCREDIBLE SOCCER SENSE.

THAT MEANS MY TARGET HAS TO BE YOU, SHŌ.

OF COURSE, I CAN PLAY ANY POSITION AND REPLACE ANY OF THEIR CURRENT REGULARS. BUT...

...THE GLORIOUS POSITION AT SOCCER IS, OF COURSE, THE FW!

AHHHH!

I'M NOT THAT GOOD, SO IT PROBABLY WON'T MAKE FOR A GOOD MATCH.

OKAY.

WHIIIP

SO EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A FORWARD, YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT DRIBBLING, HUH?

RUNCH

PRESENTING MY UNDEFEATABLE KAZ-DRIBBLE.

SEE. I SHOULD BE THE FW...

WHIIISSHHHH

LOOK AT THIS, CAPTAIN ...MY DRIBBLE!

I WON'T GIVE UP. EVEN WITH-OUT HELP, I WILL DEFEAT HIM!

I JUST PEEKED IN SHŌ'S CLASS-ROOM. HE WAS SO CUTE DRINKING HIS MILK.

BONK

LUNCH BREAK

SHŌ!

SO LET'S SEE WHO'S BETTER AT DRIBBLING.

A FIRST CLASS FW MUST BE ABLE TO DO THE FIRST CLASS DRIBBLE.

サン本

BAM

HEY, SHŌ, AND YOU, THE SEVENTH GRADER ...

HEY, YOU TWO.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

THAT HURTS, YOU SUB!

WHAT IS HE UP TO? IS HE GONNA TRICK ME OR SOMETHING?

YOU SURE? I'M PRETTY GOOD, YOU KNOW.

BEFORE THE TRAINING SESSION STARTS.

WHAT?

I WON'T LET HIM TRICK ME. I'LL BEAT HIM SO BADLY HE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE TEAM.

WE'LL BE EITHER FW OR DF. LET'S SEE HOW MANY SHOTS WE CAN MAKE WITHIN FIVE MINUTES EACH.

FINE. SOUNDS GOOD.

GO! THAT'S IT!

C'MON.

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY EVERYONE LIKES HIM.

SHŌ SHOULD'VE JUST IGNORED HIM, BUT HE CAN'T HELP BUT BE A GOOD SPORT.

HE'S A WONDERFUL GUY.

RIGHT?

TIP

THAT WASN'T A DRIBBLE. IT WAS A FEINT.

THUMP

UMPH!

...AND WITHOUT TROUBLE, TOO.

YOU'RE JUST MOVING YOUR UPPER BODY, SO ANYONE CAN STEAL THE BALL....

AFTER SCHOOL

READY FOR OUR MATCH, SANTA?

DONGGG

WE'RE DONE. SEE YOU AFTER SCHOOL.

LUNCH BREAK WILL END...

IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GET UPSET, DON'T ACT LIKE A FOOL. START PRACTICING.

MMMMM

DONG

BEFORE YOU EVEN KNOW IT...

PEOPLE ARE DRAWN TO HIM.

THIS IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN I BRING OUT MY BEST! HOW DOES IT FEEL, LOSER?
SEE HOW GOOD I AM?
HA HA HA!
I DID IT !!
SANTA WON!
SIX TO FOUR.
TAA, WHEEET

YOU'RE GOOD, SANTA.

HUFF HUFF

HUH?

SHŌ ?!

ER..I'M NOT CARRYING THIS BAG SO I CAN RUN AWAY OR SOMETHING ...

HUH

CAPTAIN?!

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU JOINED THE SOCCER TEAM...

...LOOKING GOOD OR EVEN BEING A GOOD SOCCER PLAYER.

BEING COOL ISN'T ABOUT ...

HE LOST AGAINST THE SEVENTH GRADER.

WHY IS HE SMILING?

ISN'T HE UPSET?

I GOT IT! HE'S AN IDIOT!

NO WAY SANTA!

CAN YOU TELL THE CAPTAIN FOR ME, NICELY?

YEAH. I CAN'T STAY HERE.

WHO'S THAT?

JUST SOME IDIOT WHO'S KICKING THE BALL EVEN AFTER THE TRAINING SESSION.

THUD

WHAT? YOU GONNA QUIT, SANTA?

IT WAS STUPID TO GET SO RILED UP OVER AN IDIOT.

I SUDDENLY LOST INTEREST. I THINK I'LL QUIT.

A COOL GUY'S SOME-ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIMSELF AND...

...CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE HIMSELF.

DON'T YOU THINK SO?

NUTS!

IF YOU'RE QUITTING, MAKE SURE YOU SUBMIT THE OFFICIAL NOTICE.

THE CREEP! I'M NOT GONNA LET HIM BEAT ME!

BECAUSE HE LOST, HE'S SECRETLY HAVING A SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION!

NUTS?

I'M GONNA HAVE A SECRET TRAINING SESSION, TOO. WATCH OUT, SHŌ!

THUMP

HEY, SANTA ...

MAN, IT'S LATE I'LL START THE SPECIAL TRAINING AS OF TOMORROW. I SHOULD GO TO BED FOR NOW

IT'S NOT AWFUL TO HAVE SOMEONE AROUND WHOSE BEST QUALITY IS GETTING WORKED UP.

OH, WELL, AT LEAST SANTA SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN MOTIVATED AGAIN.

SHE'S NOT TRAINING BECAUSE HE LOST HE'S ALWAYS TRAINING

HE'S SO WRONG.

WHHIIIPP

!

BOOOM

DEFENSE!

RUN! RUN!

THE THIRD DAY OF THE RETREAT. RED VS. WHITE.

STAGE.37 Space!

FOOSH

WHISSHHH

BAMM

WHISSHHH

HUH

HUH

POT

FOOOSHH

!

WISHHHH

ARE THEY GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT FOR TOMORROW'S MATCH?

HE SHOULD'VE PASSED THE BALL TO SHIGEKI.

HE KEPT THE BALL TOO LONG THAT'S NOT HOW I WANT H M TO PLAY

OUCH!

WHOA!

KRASHH

POMP

NUTS!

SHŌ SHOULD'VE JUMPED INTO SHIGEKI'S SPACE

YUKI

TATSUYA

MEMOR...

HIDEOMI

SHŌ

YOSHIHIKO

SPACE

WHAT'S UP WITH SHŌ?

HE'S OFF HIS GAME

THOOMP

KRAK

I'M NOT PASSING THE BALL WELL.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FIND A SPACE AND JUMP IN?

I KNEW THE STATIC DESKS AND THE MOVING PLAYERS ARE DIFFERENT, BUT...

PUPA!

SHO

I'M GETTING CONFUSED WHAT "SPACE" MEANS

BOING

FINDING THE SPACE?

HUHH

I'M SORRY. I WAS SO FOCUSED ON FINDING THE SPACE, I HAD NO IDEA WHERE YOU WERE ..

DUDE, DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I TROUBLE MYSELF TO PLAY ALONG THE DFs? WHY DON'T YOU JUMP IN THERE? IT'S YOUR JOB, ISN'T IT?

GEEZ, YOU'VE ESCAPED

DON'T BE ABSENT-MINDED. JUST ANSWER ME!

WHISH

WHOA!

SKRRP

TA-WHEEETT

RED VS. WHITE ... MATCH OVER!

STAGE.37 Space!

BUT I'LL STOP HIM!

HE'S SOME KINDA FORMER JAPAN LEAGUER OR WHAT EVER.

CHATTER

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING TO SEE SŌ MATSUSHITA ACTUALLY PLAY. HE'S INCREDIBLE.

CHATTER

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN WHEN HE SAID "SPACE DOESN'T EXIST"?

WHISSHH

WHOOM

YOU SEE, SPACE DOESN'T EXIST...

IT DOESN'T?

THAT'S ONE TH NG. BUT IT'S NOT ALL

SŌ. . I MEAN, COACH

I'LL SHOW YOU ONLY ONCE. SO, WATCH CARE-FULLY.

SHIGEKI AND TATSUYA, AND FOUR OR FIVE GUYS. HELP ME OUT.

IT'S NOT EASY TO EXPLAIN IN WORDS. LET ME SHOW YOU.

WHOOOSH

BAM

WHHIIPP

SHRIIIH

WHOOSHH

EHH

THUM

TOOMP

HUNH
NO WAY I COULD ANTICIPATE THAT

ER... YES.

DID YOU SEE IT?

HOMEMAKING

NO-BODY CAN EAT THIS.

IT'S MORE LIKE A WATER SOUP YOU ADD THE RLE YET?

IS THIS CURRY?

FOOTCH

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?

THINK ABOUT WHAT "SPACE" MEANS AND COME UP WITH THE ANSWER.

THE REST OF IT IS YOUR HOME WORK

YES.

IF YOU GET IT, WE'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE PRACTICE MATCH TOMORROW

BOMP

AHH!

BAM

YOU SERIOUS?

NO KIDDING!

YOU'RE INCREDIBLE, SHŌ.

UNHHHH

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

HOW RUDE!

THEY'RE ALL EATING.

MUNCH MUNCH

TODAY'S LUNCH ~CURRY

WE BOUGHT ONLY ONE BOX

WHAT? ONE BOX FOR ALL OF US?

LET ME FIX IT WHERE'S THE RUE?

THANKS FOR THE MEAL.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

THE SPACE ISN'T SOMETHING TO BE FOUND ONLY... HMM.

NO ONE COULD TELL WHO TATSUYA WOULD PASS THE BALL TO

FIRST, EACH OF THEM SPREAD OUTWARD.

I HAVE TO REMEMBER HOW THE COACH PLAYED

THE COACH HAD ALREADY RUN TO THE SPACE ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE, AND,

ANOTHER CENTER-BACK MOVED TO STOP SHIGEKI IT WOULDN'T DO TO LET SHIGEKI GET THE BALL AS HE FACED FORWARD.

SO THE OF WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO SHIGEKI WENT AHEAD TO MARK HIM

THEN SHIGEKI CUT INWARD

THE SPOT FROM WHICH COACH SHOT THE BALL HAD BECOME THE SPACE, BUT... IF HE RUNS TO THE SPOT WHEN IT BECAME THE SPACE, HE COULDN'T HAVE RECEIVED THE PASS FROM TATSUYA. .

AND SHOT THE BALL.

. .HE RECEIVED THE PASS FROM TATSUYA..

YOU GUYS...

GUYS ...

I CAN'T BEAR THE REST.

GEEZ THE ONLY THING FUN HERE'S EATING

WHEN NO ONE'S HERE, WE CAN RUN FREELY. .

IT'S BECAUSE THE SCHOOL'S CLOSED AND THAT'S WHY NO ONE'S HERE TODAY

THE SCHOOL GROUNDS ARE BIG .

OF COURSE! WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IS TO MAKE NO ONE BE WHERE YOU ARE.

NO ONE...

HUH

IF I KNEW NO ONE WOULD BE THERE ?

POMP

SAME HERE

OR, PERHAPS, WE WANTED TO FLEE FROM THAT CURRY

...WE'VE COME TO HELP YOU ANYWAY.

WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET? THIS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN PRACTICE ALONE AND EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING

YOU GOT IT RIGHT !!

THAT'S MINE.

THE SPACE IS...

...NOT SOME-THING YOU WAIT TO BE NATURALLY CREATED!

... ANOTHER DF IS WITH MASATO.

ONE DF IS WITH ME, AND.

THAT'D LURE AWAY THE DF MARKING MASATO

IF I MAKE THEM THINK I'M GOING AFTER THE BALL...

NOW IT'S UP TO TATSUYA

BAAM

THE SPACE IS CREATED IN FRONT OF HIM!

I GET AN ADDITIONAL DF TO MARK ME, BUT MASATO IS FREE WITHOUT THE DF. AND. .

STAGE.38
We're Teammates, Aren't We?

HOOP
IT'S SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE CREATES FOR YOU!
I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE COACH WAS TRYING TO TELL ME.
GOT IT!
I KNOW I KNOW I'LL WORK WITH YOU UNTIL YOU GET IT RIGHT
BUT IN EXCHANGE YOU'D BETTER BUY ME SOME GOOD MEALS LATER
SHIGEKI, WILL YOU.
THANKS, SHIGEKI
THE SPACE IS WHERE THE DF WAS FIVE SECONDS EARLIER... I'VE GOT TO JUMP IN TO THAT SPOT!
IT'S NOT ABOUT FINDING THE SPACE. IT'S ABOUT PREDICTING WHERE IT'LL BE CREATED BY OBSERVING SHIGEKI'S MOVE.

TEACHER'S ROOM
ABOUT YUKI...
...WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH HER?
THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME PROBLEMS
IF SHE CONTINUES TO STAY WITH US
I JUST RELEASED THE PLAYER LIST FOR TOMORROW'S PRACTICE MATCH.
WHAT?
HERE
THANKS
WELL IT WAS LEAKED THAT A GIRL WAS COMING TO THE BOYS' RETREAT AND
BEFORE IT STARTED, THE PRINCIPAL CALLED ME IN.
SOMEHOW, I GOT AWAY WITH IT,

NOPE IT WON'T BE THE CASE.
THAT MEANS, YUKI WIL...
THAT WAS FOR THE REGULAR PLAYERS. I PLANNED ON ENLISTING THE SUBSTITUTES WHO WORKED HARDEST DURING THIS RETREAT
I THOUGHT YOU'VE ALREADY RELEASED IT.
IT'S ABOUT THEIR TEAMMATE I WON'T BE THE ONE WHO SHOULD MAKE THE DECISION. IT'S UP TO THEM.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE THERE, TOO?
THE KIDS ARE GATHERED. I'M LETTING THEM HAVE A MEETING TO DISCUSS IT AMONGST THEMSELVES.
THAT'S NOT ACCEPTABLE!
I TRUST THEM.
I'M SURE THEY'LL DO FINE.
IT'S EASY FOR A GROWNUP TO HAND DOWN AN OPINION, BUT IT WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING. THEY MUST THINK ABOUT IT AND COME UP WITH THEIR OWN ANSWER...

CHATTER

CHATTER

YŪ-SUKE ...

...YUKI IS A MUCH BETTER PLAYER.

COM-PARED WITH ME.

GK FUWA
DF TANAKA SUB.
NORO
HANAZAWA
KOGA
MF M.ZUNO
MORINAGA
GOMI
TOYAMA
SATŌ
KAZAMATSURI
NAKAO
TAKAI
KAMIYA
YAMAGUCHI
MARUYAMA
SHIMURA
DO
KIMURA
NAKAI
TAHARA
KONDO
NOMURA
TAKAKURA
KOMATSU

IT SOUNDS OKAY

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A GIRL PLAYING WITH THE GUYS BUT

CHATTER

YEAH.

SHE SHOULD BE ON THE TEAM.

CHATTER

HER SEX SHOULDN'T MATTER. SHE'S A GOOD PLAYER.

I ALSO FEEL THAT SHE SHOULD PLAY

PENALTY

OBJECTION!

IT'S DECIDED!

YUKI, WHY DON'T YOU PLAY IN TOMORROW'S GAME?

THEN WE'RE ALL AGREED

PENALTY

I THINK...

YOU'RE OUR ACE!

YOU'RE INCREDIBLE, YUKI!

YOU DID IT! YOU MADE THE GOAL AGAIN!

IT WAS FUN WHEN I WAS IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THERE WERE NO DIVISIONS BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS.

PENALTY

YUKI!

I'M NOT WANTED. I SHOULD GO.

PLEASE CARRY ON WITH THE MEETING

ISN'T YUKI OUR TEAM-MATE?

I KNEW YOU WERE COLD, BUT THIS IS. .

...

HEY, PUP.

WHISHHH

LET ME TALK WITH HER. GO ON WITH YOUR DISCUSSION.

WAIT A SECOND I'M NOT FINISHED.

ALT

TATSUYA.

I THINK YOU'VE ALL GOT THE WRONG IDEA.

NO MATTER HOW GOOD A PLAYER SHE S, YUKI IS A GIRL.

THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH TRAIN NG TOGETHER, BUT WE CAN'T LET HER PLAY IN THE GAME

I UNDER-STAND.

HOW DARE YOU TALK LIKE THAT, TATSUYA!!

SKRUNCH

IT'S NOT THAT YOU'RE UNWANTED

KRUNCH

THUK!

...WHO'S MORE AWARE THAT YOU'RE A GIRL THAN ANYONE ELSE.

IT'S THAT YOU'RE THE ONE ...

...I WAS ASKED TO BE BORN AS A GIRL.

IT'S NOT LIKE ...

KRAK

YOU'RE A GIRL. YOU'RE NOT THE SAME AS YOUR BROTHER.

YOU'LL BE ENTERING JUNIOR HIGH SOON. IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU QUIT PLAYING SOCCER

IT CAN'T BE HELPED YOUR FATHER'S JUST BEEN TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CITY

THE JOB'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM

WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN? THAT MEANS I CAN'T GO TO THE GIRLS CLUB

WHAT?

TRANSFER SCHOOLS?

ALL I WANT IS TO PLAY SOCCER, BUT...

.WHO WANTS TO PLAY THAT?

IT'S OKAY TO WATCH, BUT

AS EXPECTED, THE SCHOOL I TRANSFERRED TO DID NOT HAVE A GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM.

JOSUI JUNIOR HIG

POKK

ER.. YEAH.

YUKI, YOU LIKE WATCHING SOCCER?

YOU GUYS ARE ALIKE.

WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT HIM?

WHAT'S SO ALIKE ABOUT ME AND SHŌ?

TELL ME!

BAM

WHAT?

SLAM!!

THE SITUATIONS ARE ALIKE, BUT THE ONE THING THAT'S DIFFERENT IS, SHŌ DIDN'T GIVE UP.

BECAUSE OF SOMETHING YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT, YOU CAN'T PLAY SOCCER.

BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL, YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DO SOME THINGS YOU WANT...

SHŌ COULDN'T PLAY SOCCER AT MUSASHINOMORI BECAUSE HE WAS SHORT.

BAMMM

EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE CARES ...

PONT

UMBRO

OOPS.

TAP TAP TAP

THAT WAY I WOULDN'T HAVE TO GIVE UP SOCCER ONCE I ENTERED JUNIOR HIGH!

...I WISH I WAS BORN AS A BOY!

SHŌ NEVER DOES.

DO IT

HE DIDN'T GIVE UP.

DID YOU WANT TO JOIN AND FIGHT AGAINST GUYS...

...OR PLAY SOCCER TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY?

I ...

LISTEN. LET'S STEP BACK A 100 STEPS..

EVEN WE DON'T DO ANYTHING HARD PHYSICALLY AGAINST YOU, LIKE TACKLING AND SLIDING.

HOW DO YOU EXPECT THE OPPOSING TEAM TO PLAY A NORMAL GAME?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THERE ARE GOING TO BE BIG PROBLEMS.

BECAUSE OF YOU, THE LOSING TEAM MIGHT COMPLAIN THAT THEY COULDN'T PLAY THEIR HARDEST.

WE ACCEPT YOU AS A REGULAR PLAYER WHAT DO YOU THINK THE OPPOSING TEAM WILL DO?

YOU REALLY THINK THEY'LL ACCEPT YOU AS JUST ANOTHER PLAYER?

SINCE THE ENVIRONMENT WOULDN'T CHANGE, HE CHANGED HIS SITUATION BY TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS

EVEN AFTER THAT THINGS DIDN'T INSTANTLY IMPROVE THERE WERE STILL MANY OBSTACLES.

BUT BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T GIVE UP, HE CHANGED EVERY-ONE AROUND HIM AND THAT LED TO OUR CURRENT SOCCER TEAM

OUCH!

PAM

SO WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR YOUR-SELF?

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO, YUKI?

BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T PLAY SOCCER, OUT OF SPITE

PAM

PAM

YOU ATTACKED SOME OF THE STUPID MEMBERS OF THE TEAM YOU WASTED THE WHOLE YEAR

I'M SORRY, YUKI.

SKOOM

IT'S OKAY, SHŌ.

BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT THROUGH LIKE TATSUYA.

I JUST SAID WHAT I THOUGHT

IT WAS IRRESPONSIBLE FOR ME TO ASK YOU TO PLAY WITH US

.. TO START FROM SCRATCH BUT, SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT, AND YUKI, YOU'RE THE BEST ONE TO TRY.

IF WE BOYS WANT TO PLAY SOCCER WE CAN. BUT IT'S GOTTA BE TOUGH FOR YOU...

BUT IF I REALLY WANTED TO PLAY SOCCER, I SHOULD HAVE FOUND A WAY TO START A GIRL'S SOCCER TEAM.

AT FIRST I WAS HAPPY JUST TO PRACTICE TOGETHER. BUT ONCE I DID THAT I WANTED TO PLAY IN THE GAME, TOO

I WAS SO HAPPY YOU ASKED ME TO PLAY

I'M THE ONE WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION

... WOULD BE THE ONE HURT THE MOST.

AND YOU, AS A GIRL...

UNNHHH

TROOOMMMM

THUMP

THAK

TATSUYA ...

SHŌ!

OUCH...

THIS IS WHERE HE TRIPPED.

...
I'LL DO EVERY-THING I CAN!

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICIAL TEAM BEFORE I GRADUATE, BUT...

IT COULD BE HARD TO GET THE MEMBERS TOGETHER

YOU'RE RIGHT

YOU CAN START A GIRL'S DIVISION WITHIN OUR SOCCER TEAM. THIS WAY YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIND A SEPARATE COACH. UNTIL ENOUGH GIRLS JOIN TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT TEAM, YOU CAN PLAY TOGETHER WITH US

TA-TSUYA

YOU DON'T NEED TO ESTAB-LISH AN OFFICIAL, INDEPENDENT TEAM.

TATSUYA!

SHŌ!

THAT'S GREAT, YUKI!

TA-TSUYA

SO LET'S START A GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM!

AS LONG YOU DON'T GIVE UP, IT'S NOT OVER.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE. WE CAN HELP YOU.

IF YOU DECIDE TO DO IT, YOU CAN START ANYTIME AND ANY-WHERE.

HUKK

...TO MAKE IT TO THE WORLD CUP!

...TO BECOME A J-LEAGUER ...

... AND ...

THUMP

SKRIIKK

THANKS...

FWISHH

THUMP

MY DREAM IS TO BECOME A PRO L-LEAGUER.

PONT

... A HIGH SCHOOL THAT HAS A GIRLS' TEAM.

YOU KNOW, I'M GOIN' TO.

SO LET'S PRACTICE.

KOF

(ER . YEAH?

MY DREAM IS...

KRAK

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM?

KR AK

ONCE I GET A GIRL'S TEAM, WE'LL BEAT YOU. BE PREPARED!

WHAT A MISERABLE GIRL.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL

I'D RATHER TATSUYA HELPED

I DON'T WANT TO OFFER THAT KIND OF HELP

YOU IDIOT!

NO PROBLEM. YUK ONCE I LET EVERYONE KNOW 10 OR 20 GIRLS WILL

EVERY TIME THEY FACE A PROBLEM, THE TEAM'S BOND DEEPENS.

LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE WORKED IT OUT NICELY

I LOOK FORWARD TO TOMORROW'S MATCH

NO WAY YOU'LL MAKE IT AT YOUR LEVEL

WHOM SHO'S DREAM IS DESTROYED AS A RADER DACHI'S CALLED THE CRASHER

BLUSH DACHI

I'M SORRY I SAID ALL THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS

TATSUYA I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU'D THOUGHT THROUGH THAT FAR

WWWWWW

RUMBLEEE

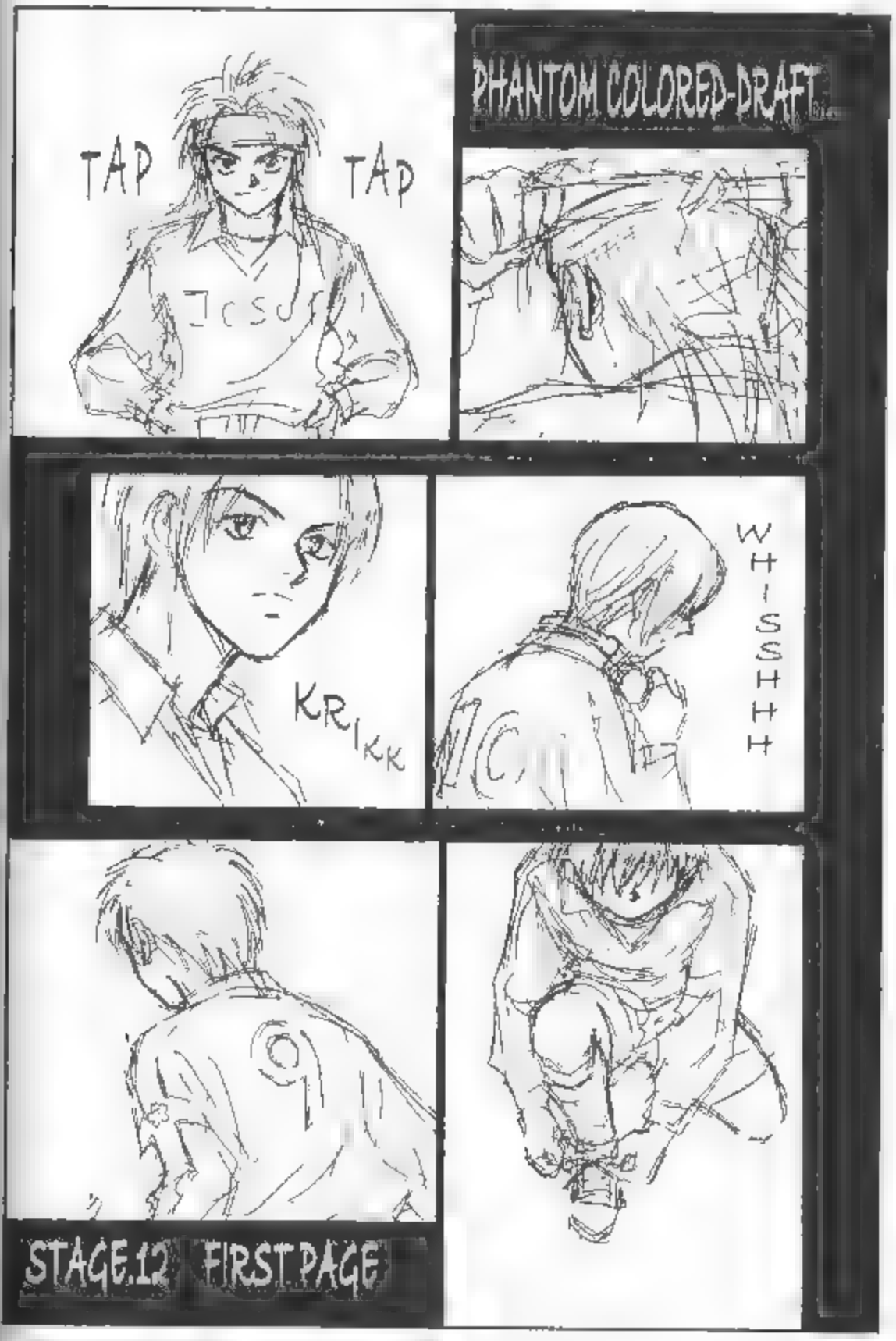
EVERY-THING'S GOOD NOW

WE WERE ALL WORRIED.

KRAK

EVERY-ONE! WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?

STAGE.39
PURE SOUL



DOESN'T SHE LOOK GREAT? I CUT HER HAIR LAST NIGHT.

ALL SHE DID WAS CUT HERE

WHAT IS IT?

BEEZ, WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THE REASON A GIRL CUTS HER HAIR?

YUKI'S ARM

WHACK

I GOT IT! YOU'VE LOST YOUR LOVE!! WHO WAS T?

IT'S PRETTY GOOD, ISN'T IT?

SHE HAS BEAUTIFUL HAIR

YOU D'DN'T NEED TO CUT IT LIKE THAT..

DIADO

FIGURES YOU'D INTERPRET IT THAT WAY.

WHAT? YOU'LL LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD AND BE VIOLENT?

I LEARN THAT EVERY-DAY AT HOME.

TATSUYA, YOU'RE SO MATURE

GIRLS ARE A LOT TOUGHER THAN GUYS

I'M GLAD SHE'S OKAY

I'M GOING TO BE POSITIVE FROM NOW ON. BE THE YUKI, I REALLY AM.

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ME

IT'S A CEREMONY TO ANNOUNCE I NO LONGER HAVE TO BE THE PERSON I DIDN'T LIKE.

FISSSHHHH

RUMMBLLLEEE

WE'RE HERE -- KOKUBU JUNIOR HIGH.

BUT ...

OUR LAST MATCH WAS A TIE, BUT IF WE WIN, WE'LL GO TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP N A GOOD POSITION.

IT'S OVER SO FAST.

THIS IS THE LAST DAY OF THE RETREAT

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.

SO WHERE'S THE BATHROOM?

...TAP

?

WELCOME

BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO HOLD BACK

I'M GLAD TO PLAY AGAINST SOUJI MATSUSHITA'S TEAM.

I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO

I'M SORRY I KEEP ASKING FOR YOUR HELP

A TALISMAN?! IT'S HAND-MADE.

IT'S EASY TO GET INJURED DURING A SOCCER GAME.

I JUST ... WANT YOU TO PLAY WELL MASTER RYOICHI AFTER BEING CONFINED FOR A WHOLE MONTH YOU CAN FINALLY PLAY AGAIN

I'M GOING.

ALWAYS GO TO THE BATHROOM BEFORE A GAME STARTS.

YOU DROPPED YOUR TALISMAN

I AM SORRY. I APOLOG ZE.

ER...

HERE.

I'M NOT PLAYING IN THIS IDIOTIC GAME!

I GAIN NOTHING BY PLAYING IN A PRACTICE MATCH.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THIS WAY TO WATCH. GO HOME. YOU'RE IN THE WAY.

HURUMPH

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE WARMED UP ALL RIGHT.

NOW, LET'S START THE MATCH.

IT LOOKS LIKE JOSUI'S FORMATION IS 3-5-2.

SNATCH

EXCUSE ME THEN

DESPITE HOW HE APPEARS, HE'S A KIND BOY

NO PROBLEM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS IN PICKING IT UP.

I AM SORRY ABOUT RYOICHI

IS HE A MEMBER OF KOKUBU JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM?

I DIDN'T SEE HIM THE LAST TIME

COME TO THINK OF IT SHE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT HIM BEING CONFINED

ESPECIALLY THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES ..

INCREDIBLE PRESENCE

TAWHEET

HE SAID HE WOULDN'T PLAY.

SO. THAT GUY'S A SUBSTITUTE...

OH WELL, I SHOULD FOCUS ON THE GAME!

2

BAMM

WHOOOM

TAP

THUK

GK, DAICHI

RIGHT STOPPER, NORO

SWEEPER, KAORU

LEFT STOPPER, HIDEOMI

THREE DFs.

OFFENSIVE MF, TATSUYA

RIGHT WING-BACK, IPPEI

BORANCH ◆ YŪSUKE YOSHIHIKO ◆

LEFT WING-BACK, MAMORU

FIVE MFs.

TWO FWs.

TWO TOPS, ◆ SHŌ, SHIGEKI ◆

DAICHI

KAORU

NORO

HIDEOMI

YŪSUKE

YOSHIHIKO

IPPEI

MAMORU

TATSUYA

SHŌ

SHIGEKI

STRIKE

NICE PASS, YŪSUKE!

ZZZZ

I WON'T LET YOU!

WHOOSHH

!

KRAK

NO. 9'S FAST!

SHPEEE!!

AH!

WHOOM

HE SENT IT BACK!

SKRRIIKK

A DIRECT PASS?

HRMMM

HMPH.

JOSU SCORED 30 SECONDS AFTER THE GAME BEGAN.

TATSUYA, NICE THROUGH-PASS!

WE DID IT!

IT WAS SO FAST I COULDN'T FOLLOW IT

WHAT? MR MATSUSHITA, HOW DID THAT GOAL WORK?

YŪSUKE SENDS THE BALL TO TATSUYA...

...WHO PASSES IT TO SHIGEKI, WHO TAKES THE ROLE OF POST-PLAY UPFRONT

FIRST, THEY STEAL THE BALL IN THE MID-FIELD OR BY THE LAST LINE, AND THEN SEND IT TO YŪSUKE. HE'S A BORANCH WHO'S GOT GOOD CONTROL OF THE BALL.

WE PRACTICED THAT DURING THE RETREAT. THIS IS JOSU TEAM'S NEW OFFENSIVE PATTERN

WOOOOM

JOSU

KRAKKK

...I'LL SHOW THEM THAT REAL ABILITY IS EVERY-THING.

TO THE GUYS HAPPY WITH A SIMPLE ORGANIZED PLAY PERFORMED AT A JUNIOR HIGH LEVEL

RYOICH

LET ME IN, COACH

DF

SHIGEKI

DF

.. SHIGEKI RETURNS THE BALL DIRECTLY TO TATSUYA.

TATSUYA

DF

SHIGEKI

DF

AT THAT POINT, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THE OPPONENT'S DF COMES UP TO STOP THE PASS, BUT. .

DF

DF

SHIGEKI

...DIRECTLY USING A THROUGH-PASS.

BORANCH

TATSUYA

TATSUYA PASSES THE BALL TO THE SPACE MADE BY SHIGEKI IN ACTION (WHERE THE DF USED TO BE)...

DF

SHIGEKI

DF

SPACE

BORANCH

TATSUYA

EVEN IF THE MARKING BORANCH RUSHES TOWARD TATSUYA IN HASTE...

WHEN DONE RIGHT, THE DIRECT-PLAY CAN BE BEAUTIFULLY ORCHESTRATED

IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE TEXT BOOK, BUT

ALL RIGHT KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

SO. I WONDER WHAT AMAMIYA WILL DO NOW?

DF

DF

SHIGEKI

DF

SHŌ

DF

BORANCH

TATSUYA

THAT'S THE SPACE WHERE SHŌ JUMPS IN, AND.

I GOT IT!

SHOOT!

STAGE.40 My Position

KRAKK

SHI-GEKI!

PAT PAT

JOSU! STOLE THE BALL AGAIN!

!

WHISH

WHISH

HE'S SAND-WICHED BY DFs FRONT AND BACK.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DIDN'T WANT TO PLAY BECAUSE THERE WAS NO POINT SHOWING OFF IN A PRACTICE MATCH. .

IS SOMEONE THERE MAKING YOU UNSURE?

LET'S SEE HOW THEY PLAY FOR A BIT LONGER.

IGNORING THAT T'S TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO PLAY, RYOICH

GRIN

...

THUMP

WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE OFFENSIVE MOVE FROM THE SIDES, WE CAN FOCUS ON DEFENDING A SINGLE FW

WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT, MR. MATSUSHITA?

DF
DF
SATO
KAZA MATSURI
DF
DF
M ZUNO
LEFT WB
RIGHT WB

AMAMIYA'S BETTING THAT THE WBS ARE NOT COMING UP PERHAPS. IT'S ABOUT TIME.

IT'S BECAUSE SHIGEKI'S POST-PLAY IS BLOCKED.

FIVE.

ALL RIGHT

HOW MANY MINUTES ARE LEFT IN THE FIRST HALF?

AT FIRST, HE WENT OUT TO SHOOT, BUT...

...NOW, IT'S AS IF SHŌ'S LEFT ALONE AT THE FRONT-LINE.

WUMP

NUTS! CAN'T MOVE. I'M BEING SAND-WICHED

AMA-MIYA ...?

IS THIS WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO?

YOU REMEMBERED. GOOD.

THAT'S RIGHT.

THAT'S WHEN WE HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR THE SIDES TO COME UP, BUT JOSUI'S WING-BACKS (WB) AREN'T MOVING.

THAT'S WHEN ANOTHER FW WILL BE ALONE UP FRONT.

WHEN A POST-PLAYER'S SAND-WICHED FRONT AND BACK HE CAN'T RECEIVE A PASS.

MAKING MISTAKES IS HOW YOU LEARN TO DO IT RIGHT.

IN FACT, YOU SHOULD.

IT'S OKAY TO MAKE MISTAKES

GETTING A GOOD RESULT ISN'T THE ONLY THING.

WHAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU PLAY YOUR BEST DURING THE GAME.

Y... YES.

IT'S YOUR TURN TO PLAY!

MA-SATO!

IT'S NOW MY TURN!

THA-THUMP

TAKE IPPEI'S POSITION ON THE RIGHT.

BUT

CALM DOWN I'VE PRACTICED. I'LL BE GOOD

TAP

BUT, IF I MAKE A MISTAKE, I...

I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL CRAZY NERVOUS

WHOA! MY HEART IS BEATING OUT LOUD

THA-THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

I WAS PRACTICING, TOO.

YOU KNOW DURING THE RETREAT YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO PRACTICED AT NIGHT

SHŌ...

DON'T WORRY. JUST DO THE BEST YOU CAN!

GETTING A FINE RESULT IS AN ADDED BENEFIT.

SUPER SUB ... SUPER SUBSTITUTE.

FOOP

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, MY SUPER SUB.

AND ALSO TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO BECOME A REGULAR

PLEASE TELL ME WHY YOU REMOVED ME FROM THE FW'S POSITION.

CHIRP

CHIRP

MA-SATO!

MA-SATO!

OKAY!

SLAP

WHOOSH

WHOOSH!

...I'M GONNA KEEP PRACTICING.

I MISSED.

UNTIL I CAN DO THE PIN-POINT...

PONK

FWISHHH

KRAKK

!

SLURP

GREEN TEA

...

THOMP

I'M GETTING UP SO EARLY EVERY MORNING NOW

HMMM, GUESS I'M GETTING OLDER...

WING... BACK?

YOU'RE FAST AND HAVE LOTS OF STAMINA. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE 360 DEGREE VISION WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR AN FW.

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR STRENGTH, THE WB POSITION WOULD BE THE BEST FIT FOR YOU.

WING-BACK.

BAM

WHISHHH

WOOSH

NOPE, IT WAS NO 10! HE PASSED THAT BALL DIRECTLY!

THOOM

.. OR, NO. 11?

WHO'S GETTING THAT BALL? NO 9 ..?

NO. 10 KICKED THE BALL TO THE RIGHT SIDE WITHOUT LOOKING BUT THERE'S NO ONE THERE

NOPE, NOT THEM!!

RUN!

GO, MASATO. SHOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING TO THE OTHERS.

6

JOSUI BLOCKED THE PASS.

BOOM

AGAIN?! BUT NO. 11'S GOT TWO DFs WITH H.M.

THOOMP

MASATO!!

SHOW THEM YOU'RE THE MAN!

...THE POWER OF JOSUI'S WB!

SHOW THEM...!

PONK

SKRIIT

RUN UP THE UNPROTECTED SIDE!

SHŌ.

WITH THIS BALL, I MUST...

MAKE THE SHOT!

WHEN YOU SUCCEED IN SENDING THE CROSS-BALL TO THE FW VIA PIN-POINT...

...RIGHT THERE!

— SHOW THEM THAT YOU'RE...

GO!!

THOOMP

DID YOU SEE THAT?! LEAVE THE SIDE TO ME!

HA HA HA!

YEAH, YOU GET EXCITED SO EASILY

MA-SATO!

JOSU SCORED THE SECOND POINT JUST BEFORE THE FIRST HALF ENDED!

MA-SATO!

THAT'S YOUR POSITION, MASATO.

THE COACH DIDN'T REPLACE MASATO SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVISE OUR MARK. EXCELLENT MATSUSHITA STRATEGY.

RYOICHI, GET READY TO PLAY IN THE SECOND HALF.

GOT IT.

KRUNCH

..YOU BECOME THE NO THAT EVERYBODY ACCEPTS.

WHEN YOU CAN DO THAT..

YEAH!

STAGE.41 Front & Back

GUYS!

MR. KATORI.

LET'S KEEP IT UP N THE SECOND HALF.

EXCELLENT! WHAT A GREAT JOB

RIGHT!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YEAH, BUT WHY?

THING S..

DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A PARASOL?

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA

YOU DID IT, MASATO!

YOU TOO, SHŌ!

JOSUI SCORED THE SECOND POINT JUST BEFORE THE FIRST HALF ENDED! JOSUI LEADS KOKUBU 2-0.

...THAT OLD LADY EARLIER.

HMM. I SAW

TA-WHEEETTT

THE FIRST HALF IS OVER!

SHE WAS SO PALE WHEN I MET HER...

I WONDER IF SHE'S ALL RIGHT STANDING THERE SO LONG

MAKES ME SO MAD I WANNA PUNCH SOMEONE.

HE'S ALWAYS THREATENING US. IF WE DON'T GET BETTER IT'LL AFFECT OUR RECORDS.

THAT LOUSY TEACHER. WHO WANTS TO GO TO SCHOOL ON WEEKENDS?

DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU OLD HAG.

THUMP

!

UNHHHH

THUD

UNHHHH

YEAH. GO DIE OVER THERE.

ARGH, DISGUSTING!

I'M I'M SORRY

DON'T DIE HERE, YOU OLD WITCH!

HE'S A GOOD KID.

IT'S JUST LIKE HIM.

HE'S SO THOUGHTFUL

HE WANTED MY PARASOL FOR THAT OLD LADY WATCHING THE GAME SHE'S IN THE FULL SUN.

WHAT'S HE UP TO?

WHOOO

HMPH

DILIGENT ARE THEY? LOOKS LIKE A PRACTICE MATCH.

THE SOCCER TEAM'S OVER THERE.

COMPARED TO US D-STUDENTS, THE SCHOOL REALLY LIKES THEM.

HUNH..

SHUT UP, SHRIMP!

SON ...

THUD

WHOOSH

UNHHHH

ARE YOU READY TO DIE?

KRAK

JERK!

STOP IT PLEASE STOP IT

WE'LL TEACH YOU T. BOTHER L6

WHO THE HECK?

GRIPP

STOP IT!

WHOOSM

YOU SAY SOME-THING, JERK?

HOW DARE YOU DO THAT TO HER?

YOU GUYS ARE REAL CREEPS.

WH... WHAT THE HECK?!

AN EXPLO-SION ?!

KLANNN

GGG

I

Y... YOU!

FUMP

SWWISH SHHH

WHOA!

RYOICHI!

HE'S...

HOW COME?

W-WHAT'S WRONG?

WH... WHAT IS IT?

KRAK

WHAT? THAT OLD WOMAN IS YOUR...

OUT OF MY WAY, KAZUE.

MASTER

国部二

MASTER!

PAMMM

THUMP

9

MASTER RYOICH!

MASTER, IT'S NOT OKAY.

SKRIKK

!

WHAKK

HUNHH...

GRUNDZZZ

IT'S... IT'S BAD!

WHAK

RYOICH'S OUT OF HIS MIND!

I'M OUTTA HERE!!

WHOOOM

WHOK

STOP...

HELP...

KRAK

PLEASE STOP IT MASTER!

ELK

NO, I WON'T.

...

MOVE IT.

DON'T INTER-FERE.

...STOP IT NOW, MASTER.

SKRIP

HUH

YOU MUST NOT, MASTER RYOICHI!!

IF YOU ARE DOING THIS FOR ME, PLEASE ...

HE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT ME!

ANY-THING ELSE IS GOING OVER-BOARD.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

THE SUN'S REALLY STRONG.

WHIIP

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I AM SORRY

WHOMM

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

HUH?

SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE NEEDED HELP.

国都二

WHIIP

...

YOU SHOULD STAY INSIDE THE HOSPITAL.

I'M SO SORRY. I'LL RETURN ...

YOU IDIOT THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME OUTSIDE.

YES

CAN YOU STAND?

WHIIP

KAZUE

PLEASE USE THIS.

...ONCE I SEE YOUR MATCH.

THEN I'LL GO.

WHAT'S UP?

SHŌ. IS SOMETHING WRONG? THE SECOND HALF'S ABOUT TO START

YOU'RE WRONG! I WAS

JUST A BUNCH OF LITTLE KIDS PLAYING SOCCER TOGETHER, HUH?

HOW DARE YOU!

A NICE BOY AND HIS GOODY-GOODY FRIENDS ...

GET READY TO BE CRUSHED!

HOW SWEET.

YOU MAKE ME WANT TO VOMIT.

I DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS. A KINDNESS WITHOUT A REWARD IS A FALSEHOOD.

WHAT ...?

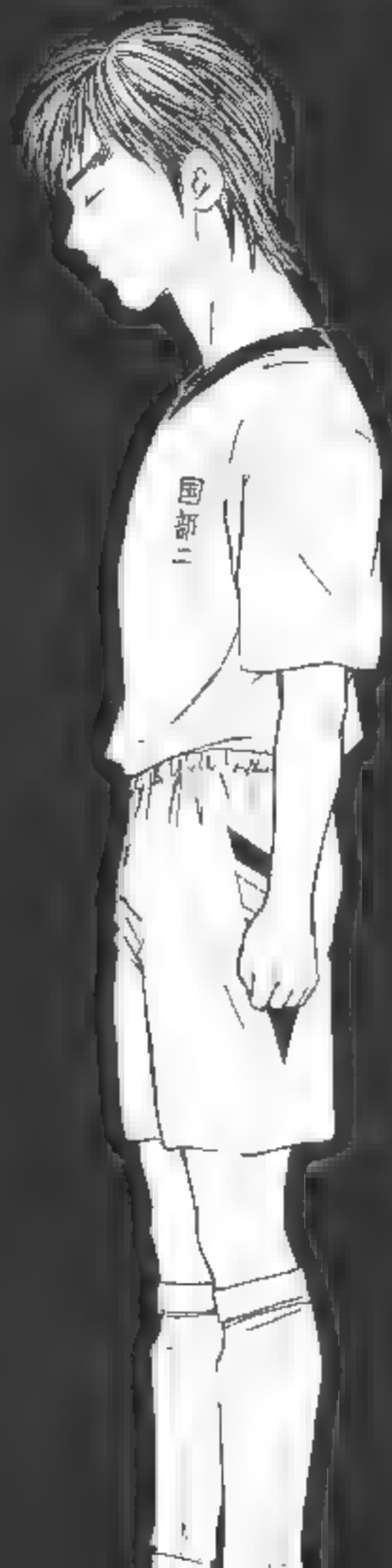
YOU WANT THEM TO THINK YOU ARE A GOOD PERSON, DON'T YOU?

YOU CAN SAY YOU'RE HELPING OTHERS, BUT YOU'RE REALLY DOING IT FOR YOURSELF.

PEOPLE DO NOT HELP OTHERS WITHOUT WANTING SOMETHING IN RETURN.

STAGE.42

Declaration of War!



I COULD LET YOU GO TO MUSASHINOMORI. IT'S KNOWN FOR ITS EXCELLENT SOCCER TEAM.

TO EVENTUALLY PLAY OVERSEAS.

TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL SOCCER PLAYER.

WHAT IS IT?

I HAVE MY OWN DREAM.

DON'T WAN IT

NO. I'LL MAKE THEM ACCEPT ME FOR MY OWN MERITS.

PEOPLE CAN ONLY RELY ON ONESELF.

AFTER ALL, PEOPLE ARE ALL ALONE.

ONLY THE WEAK MAN RELIES ON OTHERS.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE YOU CAN DEPEND ON

RYOICHI.

THAT'S MY SON.

BUT, IF YOU WANT TO EVENTUALLY SUCCEED ME IN MY BUSINESS, I'LL CONSIDER THAT... SO, HOW ABOUT IT?

I AM MY ASSET. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LEAVING MY BUSINESS TO YOU. I CREATED THIS BY MYSELF.

JUST LIKE ME

A STRONG MAN OPENS HIS OWN PATH WITH HIS OWN POWER.

RYOICHI, FRANKLY, I DON'T LIKE YOU.

CONCEN-TRATION.

I COUNT ON YOU DURING THE SECOND HALF.

ACKNOWLEDGE ALL YOUR ABILITIES

BUT I ALSO

BUT, I'M NOT DOING IT FOR YOU.

IF I'M PLAYING, I'LL GET THE JOB DONE.

11

9

10

NAP TIME'S ...

... OVER?

国部二

国部二

IT'S BAD!

INTER-CEPTED!

WHOOOMM

KRAK

NO ONE WILL BE ..

THERE ...

WHERE S HE KICKING?

THE SECOND HALF'S BEGUN.

TAKING THE FIELD

I'M DOING IT FOR MYSELF.

BOOOM

10'

WHISSSHH

JOSUI'S DFs ARE GETTING CLOSER!

WHAT'S GOING ON? NO. 9 OF KOKUBU STOPPED THE BALL BUT ISN'T MOVING.

WHOOSH

HE SMILED?

MASTER.

WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS UP FRONT..

...WHY DID HE STOP?

HEH

WHOOP

BLEH!

DEFENSE!

NUTS!

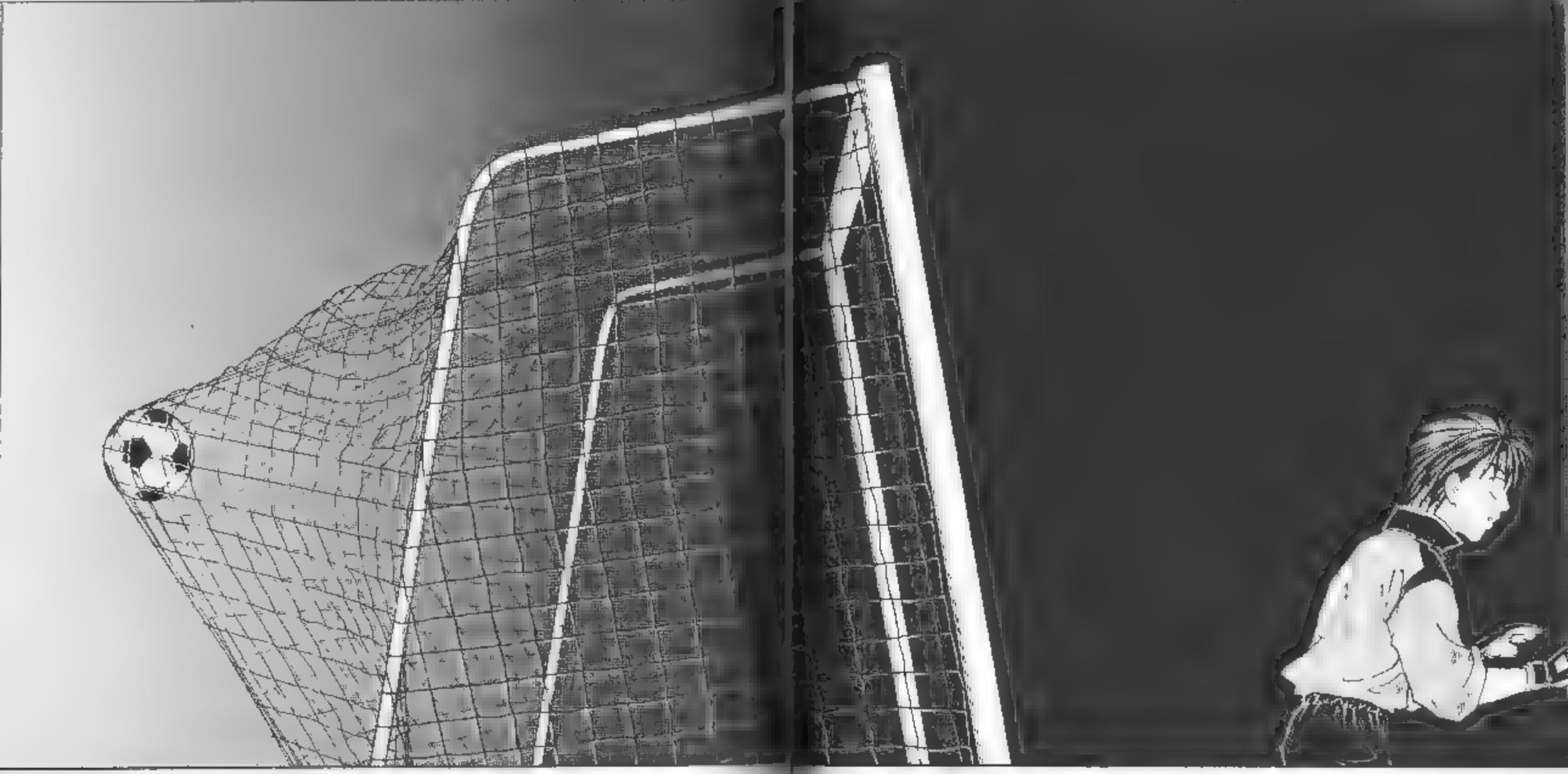
HE'S FAST. WHEN DID HE

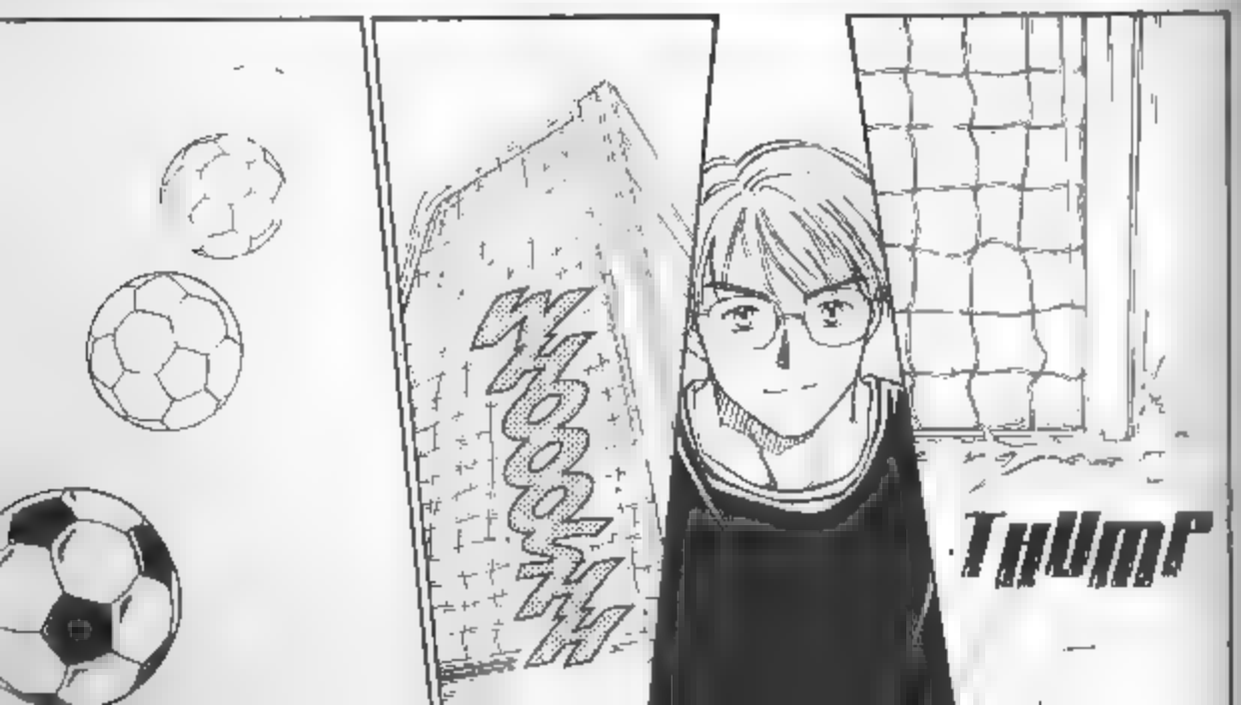
THUP

PONK

WHOOP

КАДЕТ




Woosh
Thump

THK

DRIP

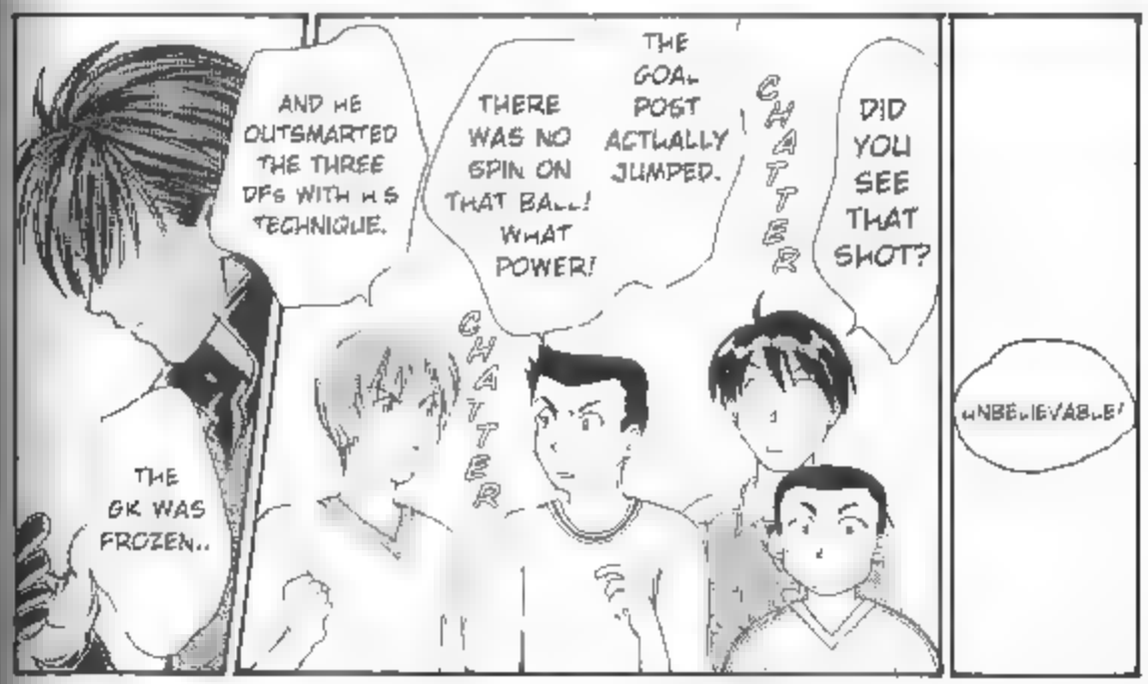
THMP

PAT PAT

STAGE.43

Your Soccer, My Soccer

INCRED.BLE!
IN...


AND HE OUTSMARTED THE THREE DFs WITH HIS TECHNIQUE.
THERE WAS NO SPIN ON THAT BALL! WHAT POWER!
THE GOAL POST ACTUALLY JUMPED.
CHATTER
DID YOU SEE THAT SHOT?
THE GK WAS FROZEN..
CHATTER
UNBELIEVABLE!

WHO THE HECK IS THAT GUY...?

..I'M FEELING SOMETHING STRANGE.
BUT
WITH ONE SHOT HE TOTALLY CRUSHED OUR CONFIDENCE. WOW.
THAT SURE IS TRUE.
IS HE REALLY A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT? HE'S TOTALLY BEYOND US
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD ANYONE LIKE H.M.

DON'T BE MISLED BY H M WE HAVE TO BELIEVE IN OURSELVES AND PLAY TO WIN

JUST BE PATIENT WE CAN DO IT.

MAN, HE JUST JOINED THE GAME AND TWO MINUTES INTO THE SECOND HALF, HE ALREADY SCORES.

CURRENTLY T'S 2 VS. 1. JOSUI'S AHEAD BY ONE PO NT.

AH. .

WHISHHH!

FWISHHHH

I'M EXCITED!

TALK ABOUT SARCAS-TIC

GEEZ

MASTER

IT'S NORMAL FOR AN FW TO SCORE A PO NT.

NICE SHOT!

YOU DID T, RYO CHI!

MATSUSHITA?

WITH TATSUYA STOPPED, WHO'S THE STARTING POINT OF THEIR OFFENSIVE MOVE?

AND HAVING SEEN RYOICHI IN ACTION, CAN THEY KEEP THEIR COOL?

THEY'RE NO LONGER AT THE JUNIOR HIGH LEVEL.

OKAY, HAVING HIM THERE IS A THREAT.

THAT AMAMIYA...

THEY TRUST NO. 9's POWER TO BREAK THROUGH. HE'S FOCUSING ON THEIR DEFENSIVE SO THEY DON'T LOSE ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS.

IT'S OKAY TO PLAY SOCCER YOUR WAY.

INSTEAD OF TRYING TO QUICKLY MAKE OFFENSIVE MOVES, IF WE DEFEND AND DON'T ALLOW RYOICHI TO GET THE BALL...

THEY'RE PUTTING TWO MARKS EACH ON TATSUYA AND SHIGEKI. THAT MEANS TWO OTHER PLAYERS WILL BE FREED BY NUMBERS ALONE. WE'VE GOT AN UPPER HAND

...WE CAN WIN!

JOSUI'S NO. 10 AND 11 ARE EACH MARKED BY TWO PLAYERS!

ONCE THEY'RE STOPPED, THEY'VE SEALED JOSUI'S OFFENSE.

NO!T'S!

THEY CAN'T PASS THE BALL TO THE FRONT.

...THEN ..

..I'LL MOVE.

NUTS!

I GUESS I CAN'T WIN IN A HEAD-ON COLLISION AFTER ALL.

SINCE THE TWO CAN'T MOVE...

THWIPP

WHOSHH

HE MADE IT TO THE SPACE BY USING FEINT, BUT..

THE GK ALREADY READ HIS MOVE.

KRAKK

SHŌ!

PONK

A LONG BALL IS SENT TO NO. 9.

JOSUI CAN NO LONGER PLAY VARIED OFFENSE.

WHAM

I COUNT ON YOU, SHŌ!

SLAPP

NO WHISTLE!

SLAAPPP

NO. 9's THROWN OFF BY THE DF!

WHISSHHH

BOOM

AH.

TATSUYA TRIED TO COVER FOR HIM, BUT HE'S TOO LATE.

THIS ISN'T GOOD!

A KOKUBU PLAYER JUMPED INTO THE SPACE WHERE BORANCH LEFT!

BA

PONK

MM!

WHOOSH

GOTTA DO SOME-THING!

NUTS!

HEH

GRRR

THE BORANCH'S BEEN THE STARTING POINT OF THEIR DEFENSE AND THE BALL BUT HE'S GOING AFTER THE BALL HIMSELF

FWOOSH

YŪ-SUKE!

SWIPP

WE'LL STOP YOU THIS TIME!

WE'RE NOT GOOD BUT WE'RE DOING OUR BEST! YOU WON'T BEAT US!

I'M BETTER.

JOSUI'S TWO DFs RAN OVER TO STOP KOKUBU'S NO. 9.

!

THAT'S RIGHT.

AH!

YOU'RE ALL WEAK.

YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ALONE.

BUT NOT ME..

THAT'S HOW YOU PLAY.

SKROOP

I'M NOT PASSING IT.

WHISHHH

A DF's IRONCLAD RULE IS TO DRIVE OUT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

NO. 9's BEEN DRIVEN TO THE GOAL LINE!

OVER HERE, RYOICH!

PASS ME THE BALL!

WHOOSHHH

WE DID IT !!

DRIVING HIM AWAY FROM THE GOAL, AND...

...MAKING HIM LOSE THE ANGLE. HE CAN'T SHOOT

THAT'S THE PERFECT WAY TO DRIVE HIM.

THAT SPOT!

LOOK, THE GK's RIGHT THERE!

I'LL CREATE...

I'M NOT GOING TO ASK FOR HELP.

HE WON'T PASS THE BALL ?!

RY-OICHI!

WHAT?

YOU'RE GOING TO SHOOT WITHOUT HELP?

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

BAKUON!!

...BY MYSELF!

...MY OWN ROAD...

STAGE.44
What I Can Do

THOOM

BASED ON THE PREVIOUS SHOT, I SHOULD'VE PREDICTED, BUT... I COULDN'T REACT...

I WONDER IF THE REST OF THE TEAM NOTICED IT, TOO.

. BUT BECAUSE OF THAT I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING.,

INCREDIBLE!

FROM THAT ANGLE, HE SHOT THROUGH A 10 CM GAP.

GOAL!

RYOICH, TENJO. , HE'S THE BEST EVER!

WHOOMP

国部二

...WOULD PLAY ONLY FROM THE SECOND HALF?

...WHY SOMEONE SO INCREDIBLE ...

I'M SORRY!

IF HE PLAYED FROM THE BEGINNING, THEY COULD'VE SCORED MORE.

YEAH.

YOU'RE RIGHT

SAME HERE!

YU-SUKE

I SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN FORWARD LIKE THAT

IT'S MY FAULT THE BALL GOT PASSED TO NO. 9.

PSST PSST

YOU KNOW

WHAT?

OF COURSE! I'M LIKE THAT TOO. IT MAKES SENSE!

MAYBE NOT A WEAKNESS, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT MADE ME THINK.

I WONDER IF THERE'S A REASON HE CAN'T PLAY THE WHOLE GAME

LIKE, HE'S GOT SOME WEAK-NESS?

I'VE BEEN THINKING ..

WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT WE DO NOW

HEY THE SCORE IS TIED WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE WE'VE ALREADY LOST?

..WE COULDN'T STOP HIM.

WE DROVE HIM AWAY, BUT

THUMP

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU!

JOSUI, WILL YOU HURRY AND RESTART?

WHEEET WHEEET WHEEET

DF, LISTEN TO ME.

KEEP IT UP!

THEY'RE TOTALLY FREAKED.

BUT IF HE DOES ...KEEP TO THE GAME PLAN.

YES!

DON'T LET THAT NO. 9 GET THE BALL

KAORU

NORO

HI-DEOMI

PONK

I BELIEVE IN THEM.

PASS ON TO THE FRONTLINE...

WHISHHH

BOOM

THUK

BAAMM

RYOICH

HMM

I WONDER WHAT'S UP?

LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE ALSO NOTICED

BAM

WHOOOM

THOOM

SOME-HOW

IT'S ABOUT PATIENCE NOW THE TEAM THAT LOSES ITS COOL WILL LOSE.

I THOUGHT KOKUBU WOULD DOMINATE THE GAME. BUT THEY'RE PLAYING SO CALMLY...

IT'S BORING. BLAH, BLAH BLAH

THE BALL'S MOVING BACK AND FORTH IN THE MIDDLE

HHH

BAM

...WE'LL STOP HIM THIS TIME

SKRCOSHH

STAND IN FRONT OF HIS LEFT LEG!

SWISHHH

GRRR!

SKRLIPP

THOOOOMMMM

PONK

WHOOM

COMING!

OKAY.

LIKE THE CAPTAIN TOLD US...

SHISSHHH

BAM

WHOMP

THEY'RE COUNTERING!

BAMMM

WE DID IT!

WHISHHH

PONK

IT'S NORMAL FOR AN FW WITH EXTRAORDINARY SKILLS TO BE HEAVILY GUARDED IT EVEN CAUSED YOU TO LOSE YOUR COOL DURING THE SPRING CHAMPIONSHIP YOU WERE KICKED OUT OF THE GAME.

WHAT WILL YOU DO, RYOICHI?

I'M IMPRESSED THEY NOTICED. .

...THE FACT RYOICHI'S FAVORING HIS LEFT LEG AND.

.. THE FACT HE'LL NEVER PASS THE BALL IN FRONT OF THE GOAL!

YOU'VE GOT GREAT POTENTIAL TO BE A GENIUS STRIKER, BUT I WONDER IF YOU REALIZE YOU'RE NOT PLAYING ALONE

BUT EVEN WHEN YOU COULD BREAK FREE BY PASSING THE BALL, YOU WON'T LET GO OF THE IDEA THAT YOU HAVE TO SCORE BY YOURSELF BUT SOCCER ISN'T ABOUT PLAYING ON YOUR OWN.

...

MASTER.

RYOICHI, SEND IT OVER HERE!

HIS COURSE IS BLOCKED BY THE DF!

NOW, IT'S OUR TURN!

SHŌ!

BAM

A DIRECT PASS! THE DF COULDN'T CATCH UP!

UNHH

IF I CAN'T DO IT MYSELF, THEN...

I WON'T GIVE UP!

FOMP

BUT, NO. 11 IS STILL SURROUNDED!

THEY'VE TRIED SO HARD TO PASS THIS BALL.

IF I COULDN'T MAKE IT AS AN FW...

SHIGEKI!!

HE PASSED THE BALL SIDEWAYS USING HIS HEAD!

JOSUI SCORED THE THIRD POINT!!

SHI-GEKI!

...

A GOAL ISN'T SOME-THING YOU CAN SCORE ALL YOUR-SELF.

...RYOICHI.

...I'M NOT A MAN, I SAY!

BAMM

Amamiya's Wish

-- Bomber Tenjo --

...THE FACT RYOICHI FAVORS HIS LEFT LEG... AND THE FACT HE'LL NEVER PASS THE BALL IN FRONT OF THE GOAL!

I'M IMPRESSED. THEY NOTICED...

BECAUSE OF AN OPPONENT'S RELENTLESS PLAY DURING THE SPRING CHAMPION-SHIP...

WHAT WILL YOU DO, RYOICHI?

GRRRRRRRR

...YOU LOST YOUR COOL AND GOT ORDERED OUT!

RYOICHI, BEFORE YOU GO TOO FAR, PLEASE REALIZE IT... *PLEASE!!*

WHAT A PAIN.

Shō-Smile

HERE.

YOU DROPPED YOUR TALIS-MAN.

GRIIN

ROOMPH

HUMPH

MY SMILE DOESN'T WORK?!

IT CAN'T BE...

Ms. Katori's Taste

IF SHE CON-TINUES TO STAY WITH US...

WANT SOME COFFEE?

THANKS.

ABOUT YUKI...

...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH HER?

THEY NEED TO THINK ABOUT IT AND COME UP WITH THEIR OWN ANSWER.

I'M LETTING THEM HAVE A MEETING.

THEY'LL BE HAVING SOME ARGU-MENTS.

I TRUST THEM.

SLURP

?

SPLURT

SUPER SWEET !!

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?

SMALL WHISTLE! THEATRE !!

MASTER...

MANGA BY **SEKI**, ASSISTANT S

SANTA YAMAGUCHI

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	AUGUST 15, 1985
SIZE:	153 cm 43 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	O
FAVORITE FOOD:	BANANA
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	VEGETABLES (EXCLUDING CUCUMBERS AND LETTUCE)
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	COLLECTING "OX MON" CARDS, STANDING UPSIDE DOWN

I'M OFTEN TOLD I HAVE THE SAME HAIRSTYLE AS SEIJI, BUT IT'S TOTALLY WRONG. MINE IS A LOT COOLER.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MINE'S DONE AT A BEAUTY PARLOR!
BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW.
BAH!

SHIGERU MAMIYA

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	SEPTEMBER 12, 1984
SIZE:	165 cm 64 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	B
FAVORITE FOOD:	STEAK (RARE)
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	BEAUTIFUL THINGS
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	HAVING LIZARDS AS PETS, FORTUNE TELLING USING CARDS

♡♡♡ HERE'S WHO GETS VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATES!! ♡♡♡

NO. 1 TATSUYA
NO. 2 SHŌ
NO. 3 SHIGEKI
NO. 4 DAICHI
NO. 5 KATSURŌ
NO. 6 KŌ
NO. 7 SEIJI
NO. 8 SOUJŪ
NO. 9 TAKUMI
HOHMUZU KYOSUKE (X-CONNECTION, 24 HOURS)

NO. 22 RYOICHI, COACH AMAMIYA, AKIRA, IMAI, SHIGERU, NORO, YUKI, ITARU & MR. KAKU (THE SINGING FLAME)

OTHER HIGUCHI SENSEI, ASSISTANT EDITOR

DAISUKE NOTE

EDITION WITH THE CHARACTERS WHO ADD DRAMA TO ***WHISTLE!*** AS PROTAGONIST'S ENEMY.

RYOICHI TENJO

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	NOVEMBER 11, 1984
SIZE:	180 cm 63 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	B
FAVORITE FOOD:	RICE BALL (WITH TUNA) MADE BY HIS OLD NANNY
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	DOGS
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	SOCCER

SOUICHIRO KIRIHARA

PERSONAL DATA	
BIRTHDAY:	APRIL 19th, 1965
SIZE:	194 cm 68 kg
BLOOD TYPE:	A
FAVORITE FOOD:	SOBA NOODLES
WHAT HE DISLIKES:	INSTANT CUP NOODLES
HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS:	MAKING SOBA, RECITATION OF CHINESE POEMS

Lefty Ryoma vs. Lefty Killer Yuta

テニスの王子様

VIZ

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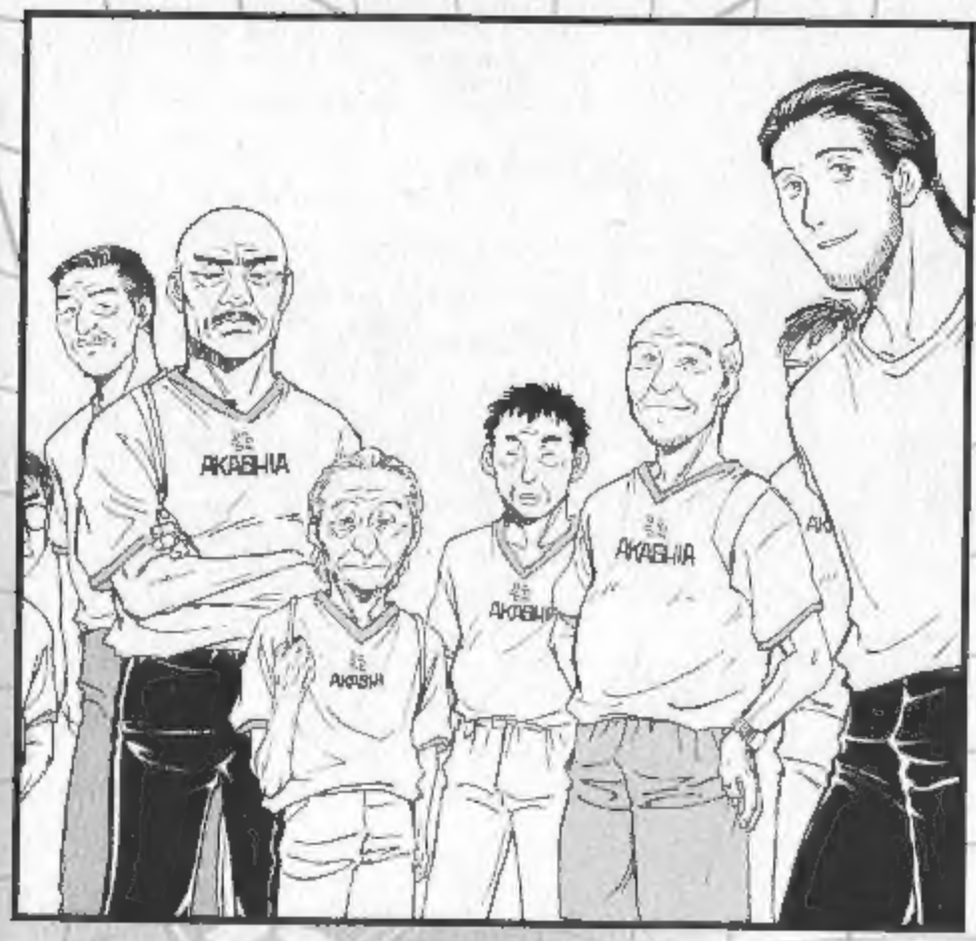
Next in Whistle!



BE THERE

Whether it's Ryoichi Tenjo, the cocky one-man scoring machine, or Seiji Fujishiro, his former teammate, there's always somebody who can teach Shô a little bit more about the game he loves so much. But, believe it or not, Josui's hardworking FW was not always such a soccer nut. There was a time when he didn't know the World Cup from a sippy cup. Find out what ignited Shô's passion for soccer in the first place...and meet his grade-school mentor who encouraged him from the beginning!

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